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P4 THINK

UNTIL MY 'NORMALCY' HAS COME

Home minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that Jammu and Kashmir will get full statehood "as soon as the situation becomes normal." Speaking at a virtual event where he released India's First "District Good Governance Index",

EVERYBODY INTO THE METAVERSE! VIRTUAL REALITY BECKONS BIG TECH

The metaverse, one of the most buzzy terms of the tech industry, could be many things. It could be a virtual world where imagination is the only limit. Or it could be a less fantastical



Mobile Internet

Services Snapped

nternet services on mobile de-

vices were suspended in Kashmir

on Wednesday as a precautionary

measure for ensuring smooth pas-

sage of Republic Day celebrations in

the Valley, officials said. However.

mobile phone services and internet

on fixed lines remained unaffected.

P7 STATE

ADVISOR BHATNAGAR UNFURLS TRICOLOR AT SKCC SRINAGAR Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar

on Wednesday unfurled tricolor on the occasion of

73rd Republic Day at the Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium



Quote Don't grieve. Anything

you lose comes around in another form — Rumi

55-

NEWS DIGEST

Former PDP MLA Wagay Passes Away

SRINAGAR: Abdul Razag Wagay. former PDP MLA from Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian constituency, died in his native village on Wednesday. The 80-year-old was ailing for long. "Abdul Razak (Wagay) Zawoora, former MLA Shopian, is no more. He lost the battle of his life today after >> More On P6

Driver Killed As Truck Falls Into Gorge

SRINAGAR: A trucker was killed while another person was injured after the vehicle they were travelling in rolled down into a deep gorge in Ramban district on Wednesday evening. Reports said that a truck bearing registration number JK05A 8290 on way from Jammu towards Srinagar fell into a >> More On P6

Elderly Man Charred To Death

SRINAGAR: A-75-year-old man was charred to death in a fire incident in Sopore town of Baramulla district, officials said on Wednesday. They said the charred body of the septuagenarian identified as Habibullah Kanna (75) son of late Ghulam Mohammad Kanna of Noorbagh Sopore was recovered today. A police official said >> More On P6

Ladakh Logs 218 New **Corona Cases**

LEH: The COVID-19 death toll in Ladakh has climbed to 223 following a fatality in Kargil, while 218 fresh cases pushed the overall tally to 25,036 in the union territory. officials said on Wednesday.

LG Slams Opponents For Spreading Rumours Of Demographic Change

THINK

Assures Land Owners, Farmers That New Changes Will Empower Them

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday slammed those inciting people by spreading "rumours" about 'imaginary issues" like demographic changes in the union territory and said land reservation has been done on the pattern of mountainous states.

Addressing the Republic Day function here, the Lt Governor said that the government will continue to march ahead with the "mantra of 4P - peace, progress, prosperity and people first" and urged all to take the pledge of eradicating terrorism and terror ecosystem perpetuated by the neighbouring country.

"Some people are inciting public by spreading rumours about demographic changes in Jammu and Kashmir.

There is a section in the society which has always been misleading the people about imaginary issues like demographic change, and on this pretext, the most hardworking and needy class of people tinue to march ahead with the



had been alienated in their own land and were deprived of using it as per their wishes or requirements," Sinha said.

He said that peace in lammu and Kashmir is a prerequisite for a vibrant tourism sector, which of late has set new employment and revenue generation records. "The government is committed to building a strong Jammu and Kashmir and we will conmantra of 4P - peace, progress, prosperity and people first. "We are determined to ensure every single citizen of

UT enjoys a prosperous and peaceful life," he said. Braving inclement weather, contingents of police and paramilitary forces on

Wednesday took part in the 73rd Republic Day celebrations here, officials said. The Lieutenant Governor presided over >> More On P6

'The mobile internet telephone services have been temporarily suspended in the valley for ensuring peaceful Republic Day celebrations. the officials said. Suspension of mobile phone and

internet services on Republic Day and Independence Day have been part of the security drill in the Valley since 2005 when terrorists used a mobile phone to trigger an IED blast near the venue of Independence Daycelebrations.

The services are usually restored in the afternoon following culmination of official functions across the Valley.

Republic Day celebrations were held amidst tight security arrange-

ments in Srinagar City and elsewhere in the valley. Officials said here were no report of any untoward incident from anywhere in Kashmir.



Karate Kid Among Padma Awardees

NEW DELHI: A young martial

R-Day Passes Off Peacefully in Kashmir

Shops Remain Shut: Social Activists Unfurl Tri-Colour Atop Clock Tower Sgr: Omar Mocks At Pulling Down National Flag Within Few Hours. Terms It 'Unconstitutional'



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 73rd Republic Day passed off peacefully across Jammu and Kashmir amid heightened security measures and drone surveillance as no untoward incident was reported from any part of Valley.

Armed police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel dotted the nook and corner of the city to ensure that the day passed off peacefully. Main Republic day function

in Srinagar was held at Shere-Kashmir Stadium where Advisor to LG, RR Bhatnagar took salute at the parade and unfurled the tri-colour.

Witnesses said that shops remained shut in Srinagar and elsewhere in Kashmir and a thin traffic movement was seen on the roads. Public remained almost off the roads while the private vehicles were seen plying normally. Authorities snapped the

mobile internet services on all platforms for seven hours—7 am to 2 pm.

A group of political activists surfaced at Lal Chowk, Srinagar under heavy security and unfurled tri-colour atop Clock Tower (Ghanta Ghar). The activist used a hydraulic crane to install the tricolour on top of the tower amid a rendition of the National Anthem.

This was the first time since 1992 when BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi along with now prime minister Narendra Modi had unfurled tri-colour at Lal Chowk.

However a controversy erupted after the national flag was removed from atop the Clock Tower soon afterwards. National Conference leader and former J&K chief minister Omar Abdullah tweeted the pictures of the Clock Tower without Tricolour and accused the organisers of insulting the national flag. >> More On P6



Kashmir's

The number of active cases in Ladakh has gone up to 1,317, which includes 1,023 cases in Leh district and 294 cases in Kargil >> More On P6

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parts of Kashmir with the tourist resort of Gulmarg reeling under intense cold wave as the mercury fell to minus 10.4 degrees Celsius, officials said here on Wednesday.

SRINAGAR: There was a slight dip

Sun Shines Bright

Over Srinagar

Agencies

Srinagar, which witnessed bright sunshine during the day, recorded a low of 1.3 degrees Celsius down from 1.8 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 10.4 degrees Celsius down from minus 9.2 degrees Celsius the previous night.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 5.6 degrees Celsius down from the previous night's minus 2.8 degrees Celsius, they said. The officials said Qazigund

recorded the minimum of 0.2 degrees Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 2.4 degrees Celsius.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 1.6 degrees Celsius. Kashmir valley >> More On P6



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Three soldiers have been injured in an ongoing encounter between militants and government forces that broke

out on Wednesday in south Kashmir's Shopian district. Police, army and the paramilitary CRPF personnel laid a siege around Nowgam village of the More On P6

Shah Hails JKP's Fight Against Militancy

nion Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday complimented the Jammu and Kashmir Police for its valour and commitment and said its dedication has been reflected as it got the largest share of 115 gallantry awards announced on the occasion of Republic Day. The Jammu and Kashmir Police has been in forefront in fighting militancy in the sensitive union territory for more than three decades now. >> More On P6

arts coach from north Kashmir's Bandipora has been nominated for Padma Shri award for his distinguished service in the field of Sports and Arts.

Faisal Ali Dar is known as Kashmir's 'Karate Kid'. A martial arts coach from Bandipora, he established a sports academy and trained 4,000 students. He aims to empower the youth in the sensitive, militancy-hit regions with opportunities and dreams.

His achievement is reflected in the medals won by him and his students in global kickboxing championships.

Also known as Master Faisal, he won his first Gold in a state level Taekwondo championship in 2005. He also got his first black belt in Kickboxing in 2008. Later in 2011 and 2013, he bagged Gold and Silver at championships in Iran and India respectively. Faisal also >> More On P6

India Displays Its Military Prowess At R-Day Parade

Press Trust Of India in the 1971 war.

NEW DELHI: The grandest flypast with 75 aircraft to mark the 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav' celebrations was the highlight of the 73rd Republic Day Parade on Wednesday where India displayed its military might and vibrant cultural heritage on Rajpath, with the ceremonial event this year being drastically scaled down in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Showcased at the Republic

parade were the Day Centurion tank, PT-76 tank, 75/24 Pack howitzer and OT-62 TOPAZ armoured personnel carrier that played a major role in defeating Pakistan

India in 2021 celebrated the Swarnim Vijay Varsh (Golden victory year) to commemorate the country's win over Pakistan in the 1971 war that led to the creation of Bangladesh. The mechanised columns of the Army showed one PT-76 tank, one Centurion tank, two MBT Ariun MK-I tanks, one OT-62 TOPAZ armoured personnel carrier, one BMP-I infantry fighting vehicle and two BMP-II infantry fighting vehicles.

The ceremony began with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the nation in paying homage to the martyrs by laying a wreath at the National >> More On P6

'Mischievous Propaganda', Says Azad After Speculation About **Political Plans**

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A day after he was awarded the Padma Bhushan, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and Congress veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday sought to scotch speculation about his future political plans.

Reports had claimed that he had changed his Twitter profile, but Azad, who has been critical of his party leadership and is the lone Congress leader to be awarded this year under the Modi dispensation, denied it.

"Some mischievous propaganda being circulated by some people to create confusion. Nothing has been removed or added to my Twitter profile. The profile >> More On P6

J&K Logs 5606 New Cases, 8 Corona Deaths

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A day after witnessing record 6,570 cases of infection since the onset of pandemic, Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday 5606 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus, while eight more people succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, Kashmir Valley registered on Wednesday 4,253 new cases of virus while 1353 were detected in the various districts of Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected by virus across J&K to 414772.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 1305 new cases of Coronavirus, Budgam 803, Anantnag 528, Baramulla



440, Kupwara 380, Ganderbal 297, Kulgam 265, Pulwama 134, Bandipora 66 and Shopian 35. In the winter capital, officials

said, Jammu registered a maximum of 678 new cases of virus, Ramban 181, Udhampur 129, Doda and >> More On P6

CAG Report Calls For Probe Into Relief Given To Migrant Families Rs 51.37L Disbursed Among 47 Families Non-Existent In CID, HC List

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The Comptroller and Auditor General(CAG) of India's latest audit report has revealed that due to the non-formulation of a policy for Jammu migrants and unnecessary disbursement of relief to "ineligible" families, several eligible beneficiaries were overlooked from the full benefits of Migrant relief under Prime Minister's Development Package(PMDP).

As per CAG, the database of Jammu migrants and their families was not prepared by the Relief and Rehabilitation Department and were further not updated on account of births, deaths, separation despite the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of J&K



identifying the eligible beneficiaries, after due verification of the migrant families.

'Thus, in the absence of a database, it could not be ensured that only eligible beneficiaries have been paid assistance under the Schemes." reads the CAG report.

The audit report has further revealed that 25 families who were ineligible as they had failed to find a place in the list furnished by CID were paid a relief amount of 27.26 lakh along with the monthly cash assistance. "Further, in the case of

Tehsildar Reasi, arrears of Rs 51.37 lakh from April 2004 to September 2007 was paid to 47 migrant families who neither existed in CID list nor in the list of High Court. As payment of Rs 78.63 lakh was made to beneficiaries not featuring in the desgnated lists, the same needs to be investigated so that recovery is affected from ineligible beneficiaries." CAG has said.

Notably, the CAG report has also stated that there were several payments of enhanced cash assistance to ineligible migrant families. As per the audit, an excess disbursement of cash assistance of Rs 67.14 lakh to 84 migrant families and inadmissible payment of arrears of Rs 75.53 lakh was made to 49 migrant families for the >> More On P6



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ticipants used social media, the more

somatic symptoms they experienced

and visits to the doctor they reported. They also showed higher levels of

Lee said, this study was just the begin-

ning of understanding the relation-ship between social media and physi-

'By looking at a biological marker

in the blood, we were able to find

chronic inflammation.

cal health.



Research Shows Social Media Use Tied To Poor Physical Health

Agencies

Social media addiction leaves very little room and space for physical activity, especially among college students. The results of a new study by a University of Buffalo researcher showed that social media use has been linked to biological and psychological indi-cators associated with poor physical health among college students.

The study was published in the journal 'Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking'.

Research participants who used social media excessively were found to have higher levels of C-reactive protein (CRP), a biological marker of chronic inflammation that predicts serious ill-nesses, such as diabetes, certain cancers and cardiovascular disease.

In addition to elevated CRP levels, results suggested that higher social media use was also related to somatic symptoms, like headaches, chest and back pains, and more frequent visits to doctors and health centers for the treatment of illness.

"Social media use has become an integral part of many young adults' daily lives," said David Lee, PhD, the paper's first author and assistant professor of communication in the UB College of Arts and Sciences. "It's critical that we understand how engagement across these platforms contributes to physical health.'

For decades, researchers have devoted attention to how social media engagement related to users' mental health, but its effects on physical health have not been thoroughly investigated. Recent surveys indicated that social media usage is particularly high for people in their late teens and early 20s, a population that spent about six hours a day texting, online or using social media. And though a few studies have found links between social media usage and physical health, that research relied largely on self-reporting or the effects of usage with exclusively one platform. 'Our goal was to extend prior work

by examining how social media use across several platforms is associated with physical health outcomes measured with biological, behavioral and self-report measures," said Lee, an expert on health outcomes related to social interactions.

Researchers recruited a diverse sam-

ple of 251 undergraduate students between the ages of 18 and 24 for the study. Blood samples were collected through finger sticks, and participants also completed questionnaires on physical health and social media usage on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and Instagram, the most popular platforms at the time the data were collected in 2017.

Those responses were cross-checked with another survey that measured validity by determining the degree to which participants took their role in the study seriously.

'We were able to establish a correlation between the amount of social media use and these physical health indicators," said Lee. "The more para relatively more objective association between social media usage and physical health, but this correlational finding can't rule out the possibility that poor health impacts social media usage," said Lee.

Lee said, the aphorism could hold true with social media use and physical health: The rich get richer while the poor get poorer. "In our previous research, we found those high in self-esteem benefited from using social media, but people low in self-esteem did not. So, the effect may be more nuanced."

There's still work to be done," said Lee. "But right now, I wanted to get the word out there that social media use may have a link to important physical health outcomes.

Ghulam Nabi Bhat (father) inf 8899653226 | 9811463874 **OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR**

SAD DEMISE With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of Rafiga Shafi w/o Mohd Shafi on Monday 25/01/22.Her Fateh

Khawani will be observed on 28/01/22 (Friday) at 10:30am at

graveyard Hafizbagh Malabagh Srinagar.

Breaved Mohd Shafi Bhat

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Noor Mohammad Ganie S/o: Ghulam Qadir Ganie R/o: Chowdry Bagh Sebdan Bemina Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E 7739 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Bemina.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5591

Dated 25/01/2022

MCB

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Abdul Ahad Najar S/o: Ab Rehman Najar R/o: Hushroo Chadoora Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04C 0519 for cancellation

of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K State Co-Operative Bank B/U Panzan Now therefore it is notified for the

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No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5595 Dated 25-01-2022

MCB

Assistant Regional Transport officer

Budgam Kashmir

Study Examines How We Understand Emojis

Agencies

A study was conducted to understand how people perceive emojis in their daily lives. The study has been published in the 'Computers in Human Behavior Journal'. Emojis are small image icons that originat-

ed in Japan: Japanese "e" means picture, "moji" means word. "We set out to explore to what extent read-

ing emoji is more similar to reading words

when homophones were used," points out Tatjana Scheffler. "This indicates that an emoji can be broken

down into a complete 'lexicon entry' that contains information about its pronunciation. Based on this information, the participants then derive the other, homophonic meaning," Scheffler added.

Still, the team also showed that the reading times differed considerably. The average reading time for a written-out word

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA), Division Bandipora

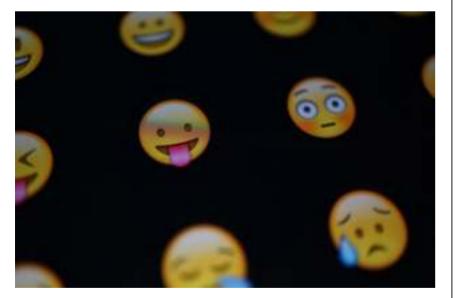
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M/s Bhat & Co Prop: Mohammad Abdullah Bhat R/o Kanil Bagh Baramulla

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سطرح سائل کا کنبہ 20 افراد پر شتمتل ہے۔ اور سائل کے کنبہ میں کوئی سرکاری ملازم موجونہیں ہے ۔ سائل کے کبند کے پاس دھذییں 09 کنال آراضی موجود ہے۔جبکد سائل کے کنبد کی سالانہ آمدنی=/105000 روپیہ تک ہے اسطور رسائل کے کہند کی سالانہ آمدنی تمام زراعی سے =/177000 ہزاررو پی تک ہے سائل RBA سر گفکیٹ اجراء کرنے کی خواہیش رکھتا ہے اگر کسی شخص کوکوئی ُعتراض ہوتو وہ بعد سات دن کے اندرا کتد رآ پناعذ ریا عتراض دفتر ہذا ہیں پیش کریں۔بعد گزرے میعادکویی عذر پاعتر اض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

rna



or interpreting pictures," explained Tatiana Scheffler.

To this end, the researchers conducted an online study where participants read sentences in which some words were replaced by emoji, and measured the reading time for each word. Subsequently, they asked questions to test whether the participants understood the sentences.

"As we had suspected and as other studies suggest, our participants easily understood sentences with emoji instead of nouns," the researcher pointed out.

The comprehension questions were even answered correctly slightly more often but not significantly so - following the sentences containing emoji than following the same sentences without any emoji.

Normal words, however, do not only lead to the meaning while they are being processed; they also have other properties that are activated during reading: for example their pronunciation. And words can be homophones: when two words have the same pronunciation but different meanings, for example, the knight and the night. The researchers wanted to find out if emoji can also trigger this phenomenon. "Therefore, we had our test participants read sentences in which the emoji doesn't show the intended object but its homophone," Tatjana Scheffler explained.

"We showed that the sentences were almost always understood correctly, even

is approximately 450 milliseconds, for a corresponding emoji approx. 800 milliseconds and for an emoji depicting a homophone more than 900 milliseconds.

This leads the researchers to conclude that the image must be interpreted first when reading emoji. Emoji are generally less recognisable and more unusual, and therefore not as easy to read as written words.

"This is also supported by the fact that those test participants who self-assessed as using emoji often, read matching emoji more quickly," Tatjana Scheffler said. Since readers can also derive a pronuncia-

tion for emoji just like for words, homophone emoji are also readily understood. This takes longer, however, because the visual information has to be suppressed and the meaning of the homophonic word has to be recalled.

"In this case, the fact that someone is used to emoji is no longer helpful. Participants who use emoji more often read the homophone emoji just as slowly as the others," Tatjana Scheffler concluded.

Together with the team at Charite, she plans to conduct a similar study with people living with schizophrenia. Since some of them have difficulty identifying non-literal meanings, a comparison with a control group should provide additional insight into language processing, the lin-guistic structure of non-literal meaning and the linguistic effects of schizophrenia.

Subject: - Upgradation and Maintenance of road from T 01 to Chuntimulla Stage-U Phase - X

(Package No. JK03-208)

NOTICE

Whereas the above cited road project stands allotted to you vide Superintend-1. ing Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Circle Baramulla's allotment No.SE-PMGSY/Bla/266-70 Dated:-23-05-2017.

Whereas the work on the road project was started on 02-06-2017 and was 2. scheduled to be completed within 548 days.

3. Whereas the upto date progress of the work is 85.57% which lags far behind as the project involves two (02) years of delay beyond the stipulated date of completion.

4. Whereas the sunset date (March-2022) of the PMGSY-I and PMGSY-II schemes stands already conveyed to you long ago and in spite of that no improvement in pace of progress was observed at site.

Whereas right from beginning of the project you were continuously directed to 5. expedite the progress of the project but no effective response was observed from your side for completion of project except lame and false excuses to hide your failure.

Whereas you were informed several times by this office as well as Sub Divisional 6. office about your poor progress on the said project but nothing has been done by you on site so far in this regard.

7. Whereas the land owners have already agreed to demolish their structures and widening of road especially at Khaar Chadie but again you have failed to execute the work on said spot.

Whereas you left the work unattended in the month of September 2021 which 8. was communicated to you vide this office Letter No: EE/PMGSY/Bpr/1876-79 Dated: 22-09-2021 and since then no substantial progress of work is observed at site.

9. Whereas final notice was served to you vide this office No. EE/PMGSY/Bpr/1957-60 Dated:- 30/09/2021 wherein you were directed to resume work on the said project within two days positively but till date no response is observed from your side regarding resumption of work on the site.

10. Whereas you were given one more chance in the interest of the work for resumption of work on said site vide this office letter No: EE/PMGSY/Bpr/2573-76 Dated : 30-12/2021 within 03 days in terms of clause 52.2 (a) but you again failed to resume the work on said site.

11. Whereas the project is already lagging in its progress as per the allotted time schedule on one hand and on the other hand it seems you are not interested about completion of the project and only playing delay tactics to pass the time and nothing else.

Therefore Keeping in view all above facts you are given a last chance to start the work on said project within two days positively and submit detailed bar chart for execution of each item of work at site in a well-planned manner in coordination with field staff of this office, otherwise this office is left with no option other than to recommend you for blacklisting and putting the balance work to fresh tenders at your risk and cost.

> **Executive Engineer** PMGSY (JKRRDA) Division Bandipora



یہ خبرانتہائی دکھ کیساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ حاجی غلام احمد ڈار ولد غلام رسول ڈار ساکنہ کرسو راجباغ سرینگر مورخہ 24 جنورى 2022 بروز سوموار كواچانك اس دنيا فانى س رحلت كر محطح ما منتهائي شريف النفس، ملتسار أور انسان دوست شخص ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ صوم وصلواۃ کے پابند تھے۔ مرحوم كي قاتح خواني جمعته المباركِ 8 عجورى 2022 آبائی مقبرہ پرضبح انجام دی جائے گی۔

نوٹ:مستوارت سے گذارش ہے کہ میوہ وغیرہ ساتھ نہ لائیں۔

سوگواراں

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DIPK-17118/21

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J&K Grants One More Extension To JJB and **CWC** members

Agencies

Srinagar: Amid inordinate delay over setting up of selection-cum-oversight committee for appointment of members of the juvenile justice boards (JJBs) and child welfare committees (CWCs) in Jammu & Kashmir, the government has granted one more extension to members of these bodies.

The department of Social Welfare, which is the administrative department of JJBs and CWCs, has ordered an extension of two months to members of JJBs and chairpersons/ members of CWCs or till these vacancies are filled.

This is the second extension to members of JJBs and CWCs, which were constituted for the first time in 2018 in Jammu & Kashmir.

In January last year, the Social Welfare department had granted one-year extension to JJB and CWC members. "During the process of selection of fresh Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Welfare) Act, 2015 and Juvenile Justice(Child and Welfare) Model Rules, 2016, the existing Juvenile Justice Boards and Welfare Committees shall be allowed to continue their functioning for period of one year or till such fresh selections are made as per the prescribed procedure, whichever is earlier," read the order issued by the department, a copy of which is with the news agency.

It is worthwhile to mention that members of JJBs and CWCs are appointed by a selection-cum-over sight committee headed by a former High Court judge.

The JJB is a statutory body constituted under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. It comprises of a metropolitan magistrate or a judicial magistrate of first class and two social workers.

The Child Welfare Committees are also constituted under the Juvenile Justice Act-2015

Each CWC comprises a chairperson, and four other members, of whom at least one shall be a woman and another an expert on the matters concerning children—(KNO)



On 26th January, the streets of Kashmir wore a deserted look and people mostly stayed indoors, marking a shutdown on India's 73rd Republic Day. Shops remained shut in Srinagar and elsewhere in Kashmir and a thin traffic movement was seen on the roads. Pic Abid Bhat

Tricolour Hoisted In Lal Chowk After 30 Years

Observer News Service

Srinagar:- National flag was hoisted atop the historic Clock tower in city's Lal Chowk on Wednesday, 30 years after veteran BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi did it for the first time.

Social activists Sajid Yousuf Shah and Sahil Bashir Bhat along with dozens of supporters had organized the flag hoisting ceremony at Clock Tower, locally known as Ghanta Ghar, to mark the Republic Day.

The activist used a hydraulic crane elevator to install the national flag on top of the clock tower amidst rendition of the national anthem.

Young players from Kashmir Martial Arts Academy also participated in the function

The participants danced to patriotic songs as hundreds of Police and paramilitary personnel stood guard around the clock tower.

Senior BJP leader had hoisted the national flag at Lal Chowk in 1992 at the peak of militancy in the valley.

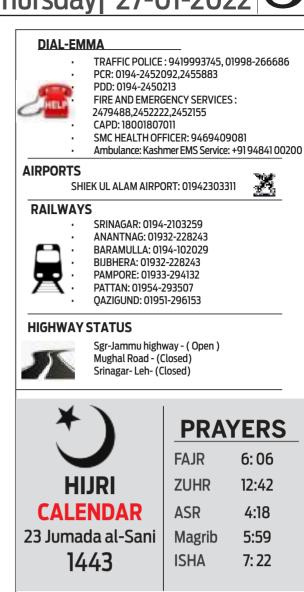
However, after a few hours the flag was no longer seen, inviting criticism from the regional political parties.

Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah while taking a fig at authorities termed the incident as 'insulting' the national flag

While calling the exercise "Photo ops", Omar took to the microblogging site twitter and posted "Tricolour disappears in less than a couple of hours. It didn't even remain there for the day. Why insult the National Flag Flag of India just for a photo op? Is this what patriotism & nationalism has come to? Photo ops & trolling?,"

The National Conference (NC), Vice President added, "If you don't know your Indian Flag Code then here is a bit of help - "As far as possible display from sunrise to sunset" which means that it can be flown 24×7 , 365 days a year as long as other provisions of the flag code are followed".

While taking a jibe at the administration, Omar said "Also, sunset in Srinagar today is 5:55 PM & the moment it's 4:09 PM IST. Just in case you are wondering'



This Day In History

- 661 Rashidun Caliphate, then the largest empire in history, ends with death of Ali. Succeeded
- by the Umayyad Caliphate
- 1695 Mustafa II becomes the Ottoman sultan in Istanbul on the death of Ahmed II. Mustafa rules until his death in 1703.
- 1880 Thomas Edison patents electric incandescent lamp
- 1897 British troops occupy Bida Gold Coast (Ghana)
- 1926 US Senate agrees to join World Court
- 1926 Physicist Erwin Schrödinger publishes his theory of wave mechanics and presents what
- becomes known as the Schrödinger equation in quantum mechanics
- 1945 Soviet troops liberate Auschwitz and Birkenau Concentration Camps in Poland
- 1967 Treaty signed banning military use of nuclear weapons in space
- 1973 US & amp; North Vietnam & #39;s William Rogers & amp: Nguyen Duy Trinh sign cease-fire, ending longest US war and military draft
- 1976 Morocco-Algeria battles in West Sahara
- 1985 15th Space Shuttle (51-C) Mission-Discovery 3 returns to Earth

From KO Archives

900 Britons Join Fight Every Year



	۴،۲۵،۴ دوچ بسان ۵ ج شبه بدین کرو پر ۲۰						
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	27-مال	ز رتعليم	دختر	كوثراكبر			
	23-مال	ز رتعليم	<i>,</i> ,	عابداكبر			
	20-مال	ز رتعليم	پسر	شابداكبر			
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				نہیں ہوگا			
ناتب يخصيلدار		nyk					

fer of Maxi Cab Tata Sumo Carriage route permit No.403/MC/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04A-2508 as well as HP Concellation with M/S Abrol Trading Corp. B/U Narwal Jammu

Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/ vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspa-

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5594 Dated 25-01-2022

MCB

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

cort Vehicle No. JK04F-0163. as well as HP Concellation with State Bank of India B/U RASMECCC Srinagar

Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/ vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM. 5593 Dated 25/01/2022

MCB

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

Giving Up Luxury To Fight For Kashmir

Dalip Singh & James Clark

ONDON- At least 900 young British Muslims are leaving the country each year to take part in the battle for Kashmir, with many using holidays from good jobs to fight in what they regard as a holy war, an investigation has revealed

Recruited in mosques, bookshops and community groups, they spend three months being trained in mountain camps on the side of Pakistan border before entering the conflict against India.

Delhi is so angry about the increasing numbers of fighters being trained, and the (POUND) 7m raised in Britain to "defend" Kashmir, that a private meeting has been called in the Indian capital with representatives of the British Foreign Office and MI5. the security service.

Indian officials will demand that Britain take stronger action to stop recruitment and, fundraising, which they claim foes directly to terrorism and sees up to 1,800 Britons making the journey each year.

MI5, which has a special section dedicated to looking into the problem, disagrees with the Indian estimates. However, a security source said". There are about 900 UK citizens who make this trip for training each year. About 10% of those stay and fight, the rest take their political and religious indoctrina tion and bring it back to their own communities, mostly for fundraising and recruitment."

He said the service was acutely sensitive to accusations that it was targeting Muslims, but insisted that it was targeting terrorists regardless of colour.

The Sunday Times spoke to three men in north. London. all university graduates from middle-class British families, two of whom held down highly paid jobs. All three had trained or fought in Kashmir. Abu Yahya, 27, said. "I have just returned from Pakistan. I joined Islamic camps and met Islamic leaders. There I was trained with movements like Lashkar-e-Taiba, Harkat-ul-Jehad-Islami and Harkat-ul-Ansar. We were trained to use Kalashnikovs, make bombs, everything that an army would need to wage battle."

Izzadeen Abdullah, a 28-yr-old white former Christian with a degree in optical engineering, adopted Islam, had aslo recently returned. "I crossed the border in Kashmir. I think for any Muslim, the most eagerly awaited opportunity is to kill the enemy. The Indian soldiers don't deserve any mercy and I'm happy to say that I took part inb wiping them out."

"We are planning to go there next month. I'm an engineer in fibre optics so I just contract out for a couple of months from a work

Also in the house was Abu-Ibrahim, a 29-yr-old computer engineer. "You would be surprised to know that there are many computer guys in place like Canary Wharf who are involved in these kinds of activities. I have had training here in the Territorial Army and again in Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan.'

The one thing all three have in common is a fear of the gove ernment's new anti-terrorism act, due to come into force this year. They believe it will lead to them being jailed in Britain, if they continue to travel to Pakistan and Kashmir. (Courtesy-Sunday Times London.)

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 27 January, 2001)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer, **Mechanical Division Baramulla**

Tele fax 01952234426 e-mail, id, executiveengineermdb@gmail.com CORRIGENDUM (EXTENSION OF CRITICAL DATES)

Subject: - EXTENTION OF CRITICAL DATES OF e-NIT No. 176 OF 2021-22 Dated 15.01.2022

Tender ID:- 2022_PWDJK_157194_1

2022_PWDJK_157194_2

Reference: - This office E- NIT No. MDB/TS/e-Tender /176/4318-24 of 2021-22 Dated: 15.01.2022

Due to inadequate response in reference to above cited e-NIT, the Critical Dates stand extended as under:

S. No	Description	Re- Scheduled date			
1	Date of Downloading	15.01.2022 (06:15 PM) to			
		02-02-2022 (06:00 PM)			
2	Date of uploading	15.01.2022 (06:30 PM) to			
		02-02-2022 (06:55 PM)			
3	Due date of opening of tender	03-02-2022 (02:00 PM)			
		Executive Engineer			
		Mechanical Division			
	DIPK-17169/21	Baramulla			
No: - MDB /TS/e-tendering-176/4514-17 Dated: - 25-01-2022					

DIPK-NB-6757/21 NO.SDA/SEO/8-2-10 Dated:24 /01/2022

thority.

Senior Estates Officer, Srinagar Development Authority.

Srinagar Development Authority

Bemina, Bye Pass Ner SKI MS Medical College, Sriangar, Kashmir -190018 Tel: 0194-2493191, Fax: 0191-2493180 Email: srinagardevelopmentauthority@gmailcom

Short Term Quotation Notice No. 01 of 2022.

SDA invites the sealed premium bills from the General Insurance Companies of UT of J&k for lenewal of insurance of SDA. Assets, worth Rs. 15993.38 Lacs located at different locations as per enclosed list. The insurance should cover the standard fire & special peril's insurance reinstatement policy extended to cover earth quack (STFI) Storm, Burglary Flood, Tempest & inundation and Terrorism covers in addition to various perils covered under the said insurance policy. The guotation affixed with revenue stamp Rs.5/- should reach to the Head Office Srinagar Development Authority, near SKIMS Hospital Bernina, Bye Pass Road Srinagar by or before 01-02-22 before 2.00pm. The Quotations addressed to the Vice Chairman, SDA will be opened on same day by the tender committee in presence of the participants who may choose to be present. In case of non availability /busy schedule of the members of the committee, the same will be opened on some other convenient day.

The details of SDA assets and other related information will be available

from the office of the Senior Estates Officer, Srinagar Development Au-

Send your write ups and feedback at editpage.ko@gmail.com

Kashmir Observer® Thursday | 27-01-2022

BSERVER,

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KO VIEW

Elusive Engagement

ndia on Wednesday called upon Pakistan to "vacate all ar-eas" of Jammu and Kashmir under its illegal occupation. India's counsellor in the country's Permanent Mission to the United Nations R. Madhu Sudan took serious exception to Pakistan after Islamabad's envoy to the UN Munir Akram raked up the issue of Jammu and Kashmir during an UNSC Open Debate on 'Protection of civilians in armed conflict: Wars in cities - protection of civilians in urban settings' on Tuesday. In response, Madhu Sudan said that India has repeatedly told Pakistan that Jammu and Kashmir "was, is and shall forever" remain an integral part of the country. He also advised Pakistan to accept the reality and stop all anti-India propaganda. India's counsellor also brought up terrorism in Pakistan saying that most terrorist attacks around the world have their origin, in some form or the other, in that country.

India always brings up terrorism sponsored from across the border and Pakistan makes counter accusations and also seeks to highlight the situation in Kashmir. This acrimonious exchange is a routine spectacle at the United Nations where the mutually antagonistic positions are ritualistically rehearsed at various meetings.

If anything, it also underlines the lingering estrangement between the neighbours that has further deepened since New Delhi's withdrawal of Article 370 in August 2019. Situation can be expected to improve if the leaders of the two countries deem it in their core interest to engage.

And if not then we can only hope that the current climate of distrust and antagonism doesn't lead to further escalation of tensions. More so, when due to suspended talks, the two countries lack the diplomatic tools to manage the fallout. It is therefore important that the two countries get back to the dialogue and work towards the resolution of their longstanding issues for durable peace in the region.

Incidentally, Madhu Sudan did indicate India's willingness to engage in dialogue with Pakistan. He said India desires normal neighbourly relations with all countries, including Pakistan, and is committed to addressing outstanding issues, if any, bilaterally and peacefully in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore declaration. But he reiterated India's policy that any meaningful dialogue can be held only in an atmosphere "free of terror, hostility and violence". The onus, he added, is on Pakistan to create such a conducive atmosphere and warned that until this does not happen, India will continue "to take firm and decisive steps to respond to cross-border terrorism," This doesn't give much of a hope that the things will change for the better in near future. More so, when the governments in the two countries have less time left before another general election takes place. More so, in the case of Pakistan.

Until My 'Normalcy' Has Come



STATEHOOD TO KASHMIR, SAYS HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH, will be restored when conditions return to normal. But who will decide what normalcy is?

OME minister Amit

Shah on Saturday said that Jammu and Kashmir will get full statehood "as soon as the situation becomes normal." Speaking at a virtual event where he released India's First "District Good Governance Index", Shah reiterated that Assembly polls in the Union Territory will be conducted after the process of delimitation is completed.

If we go by the sequence of the steps to be followed before the statehood is restored, the completion of the delimitation exercise would lead to the holding of the elections within the union territory frame-work. And statehood would be a third step in the process. But this sequence is unacceptable to the major J&K parties including Congress. This time they are unhappy over the home minister conditioning the restoration of statehood to the situation in J&K becoming "normal." The logical question that follows is who will decide Kashmir is normal now, as

change on the ground. An ideal arrangement from the centre's point of view would be a government dominated by the BIP, whose chances following the delimitation of seats

G G BUT EVEN IF A Kashmir-based

party were to form or lead a future government, it would have little maneuvering space to carry out its agenda or overturn the laws passed by the New Delhi backed administration

would transform the electoral landscape of the Valley. This would split up Kashmir among the three parties: the National Conference (NC), the PDP and the PC. That is, if we discount the chances of Apni Party led by Altaf Bukhari, which boasts of some leaders, most of them drawn from the PDP, who command some support in their respective constituencies.

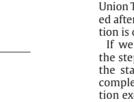
The PDP has traditionally been dominant in South Kashmir and the NC in central Kashmir with Srinagar city as its core base. And now the north Kashmir where both the NC and the PDP won their seats is witnessing the emergence of the PC as a major player. Whether this new political reality also reflects in the seat tallies of these parties in the future assembly election remains to be seen.

But even if a Kashmir-based party were to form or lead a future government, it would have little maneuvering space to carry out its agenda or overturn the laws passed by the New Delhi backed administration over the last two and a half years.

Going forward, the sit

Riyaz Wani

G G G O ING F O RWARD, the situation looks very uncertain. It is unlikely that space for normal



OTHER OPINON

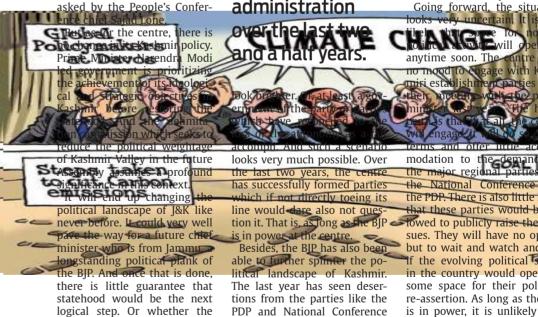
False Dichotomy

he Supreme Court has once again addressed the 'merit versus reservation' debate, a misleading binary that has engaged public and judicial discourse for years. While ruling in favour of extending reservation to OBCs in the all-India quota (AIQ) of seats in admission to under-graduate and post-graduate medical and dental courses, the Court has concluded that the binary has become superfluous. The courts have now come to recognise the idea of 'substantive equality', which sees affirmative action not as an exception to the equality rule, but as a facet of the equality norm. 'Formal equality', or the principle that everyone competes on an equal footing, is inadequate to address social inequalities and the inherent disadvantages of the less advanced sections, necessitating provisions that help them compete with the advanced classes. The competitive examination may be necessary for distribution of educational opportunities, but it does not enable equal opportunity for those competing with-out the aid of social and cultural capital, inherited skills and early access to quality schooling. Good performance in an examination does reflect hard work, but does not always reflect "merit" solely of one's own making. "The rhetoric surrounding merit obscures the way in which family, schooling, fortune and a gift of talents that the society currently values aids in one's advancement," writes Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, and raises the relevant question whether marks are the best gauge of individual merit. Seen in this light, reservation ensures that backward classes are able to avail of opportunities that "typically evade them because of structural barriers".

The provision of 27% reservation for OBCs within the AIQ was introduced only in July 2021. Implemented from 1986, the AIQ was envisaged as a domicile-free quota to access medical education in all colleges in the country. It comprises 15% of undergraduate medical and dental seats and 50% of post-graduate seats surrendered by the States for admission through a central pool. For two decades, there was no reservation in this segment. In 2007, the Court allowed the introduction of 15% reservation for SCs and 7.5% for STs. Even when the OBC quota was introduced in Central government institutions alone, there was none in State colleges. The decision to end this discrimination now has judicial imprimatur. The Court has also rejected the argument that there was no need for reservation in post-graduate medical education. The impact of backwardness, it has said, does not simply disappear because a candidate has a graduate qualification and does not create parity between advanced classes and backward classes. The latest judgment marks another notable addition to the body of affirmative action jurisprudence.

The Hindu

political activity will open up anytime soon. The centre is in no mood to engage with Kashmiri establishment parties after their meeting with the prime minister last year



into the Apni Party and the statehood to be granted would People's Conference, more so, in be full or a truncated one - one that resembles a Delhi-type the latter. arrangement where the real In theory, the influx of the power remains vested with leaders from the PDP and also the governor. Such an arrangement would hardly be enough to make a redeeming difference

from the National Conference has set up the People's Conference as a stronger Kashmirbased party. And should Lone succeed in rallying North Kashmir around his party, it

the National Conference and the PDP. There is also little hope that these parties would be al-lowed to publicly raise their issues. They will have no option but to wait and watch and see If the evolving political scene set in the country would open up some space for their political re-assertion. As long as the BJP is in power, it is unlikely that the statehood would be restored. The logic is simple: that would deny the party direct control of the state of affairs in the region, something that the party is loath to part with.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, spaceand accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Respecting Women Online

OVID-19 has pushed people to the digital universe, now, more than ever. This, however, does not mean that this proliferation has been entirely positive. With more people on the internet, it has also become a vulnerable space. It is especially true for women.

OBSERVER

MAIL

Women face a number of issues

online. Stalking, trolling, harassment and blackmailing - to name a few.

to the existing state of affairs

in J&K, as fundamentally there

wouldn't be much that would

Trolling, out of all these, is often brushed under the carpet and is trivialised. This trivialisation of trolling helps no one and is absolutely unacceptable. In a country like India, there is every chance that digital abuse can translate into physical harm. Women are already in danger here and add to

that the access that internet gives to possible offenders.

Therefore, we must find ways to collaboratively call out abusive handles and ensure the safety of women on the internet. Additionally, vocal women need to be supported and protected because they're always at the receiving end of hate. Moreover, those who aren't aware of how to use

internet safely, should also be educated.

Students should be taught provisions under law for digital offences from the school level itself. It is imperative to have an all-hands-ondeck approach to ensure that we give a safe internet to women.

Ameera Shah

Kashmir Observer[™] 05

Everybody Into The Metaverse! Virtual Reality Beckons Big Tech

Cade Metz

he metaverse, one of the most buzzy terms of the tech industry, could be many things. It could be a virtual world where imagination is the only limit. Or it could be a less fantastical place for holding busi-

ness meetings without leaving home. For the tech titans getting behind this big idea, the metaverse could be something more tangible: the next great way to make piles of money.

After 15 years of riding a boom in mobile computing that has turned tech's biggest companies into giants worth trillions of dollars, the power brokers of the industry believe that controlling the doors into the metaverse and virtual reality could be the centerpiece of a new business, like smartphones and apps or personal computers and web browsers in the 1990s.

Fifteen years is a long time for the industry to wait for a new tech trend to come along. Ideas that many hoped would take central stage by now, like advanced artificial intelligence and quantum computing, are taking longer than some had anticipated. And the technology behind cryptocurrencies and newer ideas like decentralized computing appears promising — but its mainstream appeal is still unclear.

So tech companies are lining up to sell the devices that let consumers into this virtual world and control their experiences once they are inside it. Suddenly, building new things for the metaverse is offering the kind of fresh appeal that comes along only every so often in any industry.

Mark Zuckerberg is so excited about the metaverse that he recently made the attention-grabbing decision to change his company's name from Facebook to Meta. Google has been working on metaverserelated technology for years. Apple, arguably the biggest winner of the mobile boom, has its own devices in the works. Microsoft is putting a corporate spin on the metaverse, offering a headset to businesses and government agencies.

"Most companies now see that the metaverse is around the corner," said Matthew Ball, a venture capitalist and an essayist who has written extensively about this concept and the hype around it. "The narrative is a little ahead of the reality of these technologies, but this is a response to the enormity of the opportunity."

One research firm estimates that the market for metaverse technologies – including games, virtual reality headsets, and other emerging gadgets and online services – topped \$49 billion in 2020 and will grow by more than 40% each year.



WE HAVE A VAGUE SENSE OF WHAT THINGS CURRENTLY EXIST THAT we could kind of call the metaverse, and we know which companies are investing in the idea, but we still don't know what it is. Facebook—sorry, Meta, still not getting it—thinks it will include fake houses you can invite all your friends to hang out in

"This is the evolution of the internet," said Alex Kipman, who has spent more than a decade shepherding this kind of technology at Microsoft. "If you are a company like Microsoft, you want to participate."

Focusing attention on the metaverse also allows companies like Facebook to focus on something other than their problems with content moderation, misinformation and regulators accusing them of monopolistic practices. But it could also lead to new scrutiny of old issues like privacy and managing who does what to whom in a virtual world.

The metaverse is not a new idea. Science fiction writer Neal Stephenson coined the term in 1992, and the concept is commonplace among video game companies. For decades, massively multiplayer online games have served as digital worlds where people can meet, chat and do business. Some, like Second Life, an online fad more than a decade ago, were designed as purely social spaces.

In 2014, in a deal valued at more than \$2 billion, Facebook acquired Oculus, a startup that made virtual reality headsets - goggles that trick your brain into thinking you are inside a digital landscape. Zuckerberg began describing virtual reality as the next big computing platform, though exactly when that would happen was hard to predict.

Zuckerberg says the metaverse will pervade daily life in ways games do not, offering new avenues for buying goods and services, communicating with friends and family and collaborating with colleagues. But at the moment, Meta's headsets are cumbersome. Sometimes, they make people sick. They completely cover the eyes, separating people from the world around them.

Apple, a company known for building enormously popular, consumer-friendly devices, is among the many companies working to improve these headsets, a person familiar with the project said. But there are physical limitations holding the technology back.

Apple's prototype, which resembles ski goggles, requires separate hardware that connects to the headset and must be worn elsewhere on the body, the person said. Apple declined to comment.

Ultimately, many experts argue, Zuckerberg's vision will be realized only through lightweight eyeglasses that can layer digital images onto what you see in the real world – often called "augmented reality." As people walk down the street, they could check the latest sports scores from a digital display that seems to float in

a digital display that seems to float in front of them. They could sit down for a meeting with people who are right next to them — and others who are not. Google is among those developing this

kind of eyewear. Years after introducing Google Glass – smart glasses that faced enormous backlash over their geeky vibe and casual approach to personal privacy – the company is nurturing a new project.

Last year, Google acquired a startup called North, which had purchased many of the patents behind a smart-glasses project that originated at computer chip giant Intel. The glasses could project digital images directly into the eyes of the people who wore them, and though they were heavier than ordinary glasses, they were reasonably comfortable, according to early testers. Google declined to comment. But the mainstream appeal of what tech companies are describing is still an open question. Virtual reality that completely covers the eyes "is something you will use for certain tasks — and the experience might be amazing — but it is not something for the general public," said Nikhil Balram, who helped oversee the development of virtual and augmented reality hardware at Google until November last year.

Intel's augmented reality project produced a prototype, Vaunt, which was tested with consumers. The leader of the project, Jerry Bautista, said in a recent interview that these glasses showed enormous promise not just as a personal technology that people wanted to use but as a new kind of computing platform that could provide new sources of revenue.

"We were giving away the hardware but making money on the data," he said. "For every dollar of hardware, we were making three dollars on software and data sales."

This is why companies like Apple, Google, Microsoft and Meta are exploring similar technologies. For some, they might be a way of selling software and services. For others, they might be a way of selling ads, Bautista said.

But experts say perfecting this technology could take a decade — if not more. Some augmented reality glasses are as small and light as ordinary eyewear, but they do not yet offer the computing power needed to generate the convincing but unobtrusive images that everyday use would require.

"It sometimes feels like '10 years' is code for 'I have no idea," said Balram, who is developing augmented reality glasses at a company called EyeWay Vision after leaving Google.

In 2018, Intel shut down the Vaunt project, before selling many of its patents to North, the startup acquired by Google. Ultimately, Bautista said, the company felt it was just too difficult to answer the many questions surrounding the technology.

Because of privacy regulations in Europe and other parts of the world, he said, the project could end up harming the bottom line more than it helped. The company estimated that 3% of its yearly revenues could be at risk, he said.

Now, many of the world's most powerful tech companies are facing the same questions.

"We can build amazing things," Bautista said. "The hardware is not the hard part. The business models are not the hard part. Finding ways these devices can be used is not the hard part. The hard part is: What happens if the data leaks out?"

When Will The Covid-19 Pandemic End? 4 Essential Reads On Past Pandemics And What The Future Could Bring

Maggie Villiger

ore than two years after the first cases of COVID-19 were diagnosed, people are exhausted by the coronavirus pandemic, ready for all this to end. When - if ever – is it realistic to expect SARS-CoV-2 will recede from the headlines and daily life? That's the unspoken question beneath the surface of many of The Conversation's articles about COVID-19. None of our authors can see the future, but many do have expertise that offers insights about what's reasonable to expect. Here are four such stories from our archive. Written by historians and scientists, they each suggest a way to think about what's at the end of the pandemic tunnel – and paths to get there.

1. Past pandemics are not a perfect prediction

Almost as soon as it hit, people were trying to figure out how the COVID-19 pandemic would proceed. It was tempting to look for clues in the course of the 1918 flu pandemic that killed as many as 50 million people worldwide. Could the waves of disease seen in the 1900s provide a road map for what could be expected a century later?

Daily deaths from COVID-19 were declining in the U.S. when historian Mari Webel and virologist Megan Culler Freeman from University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences cautioned against reading too much into how things had gone for people generations ago.

It was so tempting to superimpose a timeline of flu surges on the modern calendar to get even a blurry forecast of what the corona-



virus might have in store for us. "Scanning the historical record is one way to draw our own lives into focus and perspective," wrote Webel and Culler Freeman. "Unfortunately, the end of influenza in summer 1919 does not portend the end of COVID-19 in the summer of 2020." And for reasons ranging from biology to demographics to politics, that is one prediction that most certainly came true.

2. Calling it over before it's really over

While the 1918 flu pandemic wasn't an exact template for how the coronavirus would sweep the world, the earlier pandemic provided plenty of parallels when it came to human behavior. University of Michigan historian J. Alexander Navarro described how in the early 20th century Americans essentially quit on effective social distancing precautions when they got fed up with living constrained lives. Sound familiar? As case numbers declined, "People clamored to return to their normal lives. Businesses pressed officials to be allowed to reopen," Navarro wrote. "Believing the pandemic was over, state and local authorities began rescinding public health edicts."

With the burden of public health resting on individual choices, additional waves of flu crashed over the population. Some amount of wishful thinking, along with a premature return to "normal," was likely to blame. People's choices can affect whether an infectious disease outbreak ends or drags on.

3. Once a virus comes, it never really leaves

FOR NOW, THESE SCHOLARS WRITE, THE best we can likely hope for is stabilized rates of SARS-CoV-2 that settle down into predictable patterns, like flu season

Infectious diseases are as old as humanity. Pointing to examples such as malaria, tuberculosis, leprosy and measles, Rutgers University – Newark historian Nükhet Varlik wrote, "Once added to the repertoire of pathogens that affect human societies, most infectious diseases are here to stay." Only smallpox has been completely eradicated, thanks to an intense global vaccination campaign.

Varlik's own research has focused on plague, a bacterial disease that's caused at least three pandemics in the past 5,000 years – including the 14th century's Black Death – along with many more localized outbreaks over the years. Outbreaks wound down based on factors like "changes in temperature, humidity and the availability of hosts, vectors and a sufficient number of susceptible individuals," Varlik wrote. "Some societies recovered relatively quickly from their losses caused by the Black Death. Others never did."

The responsible bacterium, Yersinia pestis, is still with us today.

4. The endemic endgame

A post-pandemic world may still have CO-VID-19 in it. Many researchers suspect that the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus will become endemic, meaning it's always around, with some level of constant ongoing transmission. The viruses that cause the flu and the common cold, for instance, are endemic.

Sara Sawyer, Arturo Barbachano-Guerrero and Cody Warren, a team of virologists and immunologists from the University of Colorado Boulder, wrote that SARS-CoV-2 might hit the sweet spot for a virus to become endemic by being just the right degree of transmissible: "Generally speaking, viruses that are highly contagious, meaning that they spread really well from one person to the next, may never die out on their own because they are so good at finding new people to infect."

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SARS-CoV-2 spreads easily through the air. Even people who aren't experiencing any symptoms can pass the coronavirus to others. These factors, along with today's heavily interconnected global society, make it unlikely CO-VID-19 is going away completely anytime soon. For now, these scholars write, the best we can likely hope for is stabilized rates of SARS-CoV-2 that settle down into predictable patterns, like flu season. If you want to help hurry things along toward this end stage, do what you can to make yourself an inhospitable host for the coronavirus – most notably, keep up to date with recommended COVID-19 vaccinations.

The author is Senior Science + Technology Editor. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation

+NEWS

Thursday | 27.01.2022 KASHMIR OBSERVER < 06

Tarigami Challenges New Land Laws Before SC

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: Communist Party of India (M) senior leader and People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) spokesperson MY Tarigami has challenged the new land laws implemented in Jammu and Kashmir before the Supreme Court of India.

In the petition, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, Tarigami's counsel submitted that the Presidential Order CO 272 dated 05.08.2019, Declaration CO 273 dated 06.08.2019 and Jammu & Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019 passed by the Parliament on 05.08.2019 are unconstitutional and violative of 'petitioner's' fundamental rights under Article 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India.

submitted Tarigami that Section 96 of the J&K Reorganization Act, 2019 passed pursuant to the Presidential Order CO 272 dated 05.08.2019, Declaration CO 273 dated 06.08.2019 empowered the Central Government to adapt and modify any law by way of repeal or amendment before the expiration of one year from the appointed day of the Union Territory of J&K, which is 31.10.2019.

It further submitted that exercising the powers under Section 96 of the J&K Reorganization Act, 2019, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued notification viz. "Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws), whereby several amendments to various laws applicable in Jammu and Kashmir were carried out.

abrogation Before of



Article-370, land rights in Jammu & Kashmir were protected and guaranteed under the special constitutional provisions. However the government undertook several changes in the land laws. Now agriculture land can be used for non-agriculture purposes and private land can be used for industrial purposes. The fresh amendment in the J&K Land Revenue Act 1939 (Samvat 1996) was made recently by the Union Territory Administration of Jammu & Kashmir.

The petition apprised the court that in the 'Instrument of Accession' that only the Central Government will have powers only on the matters specified in the schedule therein which were broadly as follows:

Communications and Ancillary. 'Therefore, the matters relating to land use, transfer thereof and the broader matters relating to revenue etc were well

within the powers of the state till Presidential Orders dated 05.08.2019 and the passing of the Jammu and Kashmir (Reorganization of State) Act, 2019," the petition reads.

The petition further submitted that orders issued in pursuance to the powers accorded to the Central Government under Section 96 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019 as the said statute itself is unconstitutional, void, unsustainable and therefore liable to be struck down for the reasons mentioned in the accompanying writ petition.

It further adds that "Owing to the special historical circumstances, Jammu and Kashmir had several constitutional provisions to safeguard the distinctive rights and identity of the region's permanent and local residents. Some of the major land laws that established rights of peasantry and preserved land in the hands of permanent residents were: and Kashmir lammu

Alienation of Land Act, 1938, Jammu and Kashmir Big Landed Estates Abolition Act, 1950.

Jammu and Kashmir Common Lands (Regulation) Act, 1956, Jammu and Kashmir Land

Grants Act, 1960, and Jammu and Kashmir Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976.

The petition submitted that SC must issue a writ of certiorari or any appropriate writ or order(s) declaring Presidential Order GSR 551(E) (CO 272) and Jammu and Kashmir (Reorganization) Act, 2019 unconstitutional, void, and

People posting videos of UAE attack summoned under vague law

Agenceis

DUBAI: State prosecutors in Abu Dhabi summoned people who shared videos on social media of Emirati defense forces intercepting missiles fired by Yemen's Houthis at the nation's capital, a state-run report said Wednesday.

The move by prosecutors against social media users indicates the destabilising potential of continued attacks on the United Arab Emirates, even if the missiles are intercepted without injury to residents as happened on Monday. The United Arab Emirates relies on millions of foreigners for its economic survival; a perception of instability threatens this business model.

The UAE, which is also home to the gleaming tourism hub of Dubai, has prided itself in being a safe and predictable corner of the Middle East, where carefree luxury living is standard among its globe-trotting, wellheeled residents and where the promise of better pay beckons millions of migrant workers from South Asia and the Philippines.

The UAE's Attorney General Hamad al-Shamsi was quoted by the state-run WAM news agency as saying the distribution of footage from the attack exposes military installations and other vital sites to risk and may affect the security and stability of society. He said prosecutors would pursue deterrent legal measures against those who publish legally prohibited material.

He warned against both publishing and circulating such



material on social media web-Instagram, Snapchat and other sites. It was not immediately social media sites showing the sky over Abu Dhabi light up clear whether journalists in the before dawn. It appeared to be UAE who might film such an incident and social media users interceptor missiles racing into who provide accredited media the clouds to target the incoming fire. Two explosions later outlets with such footage for news distribution would face thundered through the city. similar penalties. known features of Abu Dhabi.

Al-Shamsi did not disclose how many people were summoned nor provide any details on what consequences they might face.

Earlier this month, the UAE enacted a new cybercrime law that rights groups say is worryingly restrictive and enables the targeting of people who post information online that contravenes the official state line.

Al-Shamsi stressed that rumors negatively impact the nation and could amount to societal peace being threatened and fear and panic being whipped up.'

Multiple videos appeared early Monday on Twitter,

weekend now prohibit the flying of drones in the UAE. Emirati prosecutors say anyone who flies drones could face jail or a hefty fine.

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Prosecutors have not said which law may have been violated by the summoned social media users, however rights activists and others have been prosecuted under the country's vaguely worded cybercrime law, enacted amid the region's Arab Spring revolts.

More than a dozen rights groups this week expressed their concern in a joint statement over the country's new law on combatting rumors and cybercrime, which replaced the earlier law.

The groups, which in-clude MENA Rights Group, DAWN and Reporters without Borders, said the law further restricts online speech and imposes a prison sentence on anyone who uses the internet to share, document or report information that could harm the state's interests, reputation or prestige. It also criminalizes spreading rumors and fake news.

The rights groups said the law's broad language enables Emirati authorities to impose a fine of up to 10 million dirhams (about 2.73 million) on any individual who uses the internet or an electronic account to store or share unlawful content. The 15 rights groups said the new law restricts free speech in the UAE by defining unlawful content as content that intends to harm the state's national security or any of its interests and decrease public confidence in authorities.

New rules issued over the

The videos corresponded to

It was the second attack

in a week to target the UAE's

oil-rich capital, sending shock

waves among the country's

residents and tourists, who

keep the country's endless five-

star hotels teeming this time of

An earlier Houthi missile and

drone attack last week killed

three South Asian workers

at a sprawling oil facility and

sparked a fire at Abu Dhabi's

international airport. The UAE

backs militias on the ground

in Yemen fighting the Iran-

backed Houthis and has been a

member of the Saudi-led coali-

tion at war there since 2015.

year.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT** PAGE

LG Slams Opponents

the Republic Day function which was held at MA Stadium amid tight security arrangements in view of terror threats.

Sinha asserted that land reservation has been done in the Union territory on the pattern of the mountainous states.

"I assure the land owners and farmers that all these changes have been effected with the sole aim of empowering them," he said. Several parties in J-K, including the NC and

PDP, have been raising these issues.

The Lt Governor paid homage to those who sacrificed their lives for the country.

I pay tribute to the jawans and officers of Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army and other Central Security Forces, who continue to make supreme sacrifice for unity and integrity of the motherland.

"While saluting their valor and sacrifices, we should also take a pledge to eradicate terrorism and terror ecosystem perpetuated by the neighboring country" said the It Coveri

'Chilla-i-Kalan' which began on December 21 last year.

'Chilla-i-Kalan' is a period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies including the famous Dal Lake here as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

The chances of snowfall are the most frequent and maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy to very heavy snowfall.

3 Soldiers Injured

district on Wednesday evening after receiving inputs about the presence of militants, a police official said. When the joint team started advances, he said, the militants hiding in the village opened fire upon them in a bid to escape from the dragnet.

The search team, he said, returned the fire setting off an encounter.

According to reports three soldiers were in

three service chiefs were present at the solemn ceremony.

The prime minister ditched his traditional turban look on Republic Day this year and wore a traditional cap from Uttarakhand with an image of the brahmakamal, the state flower, and also sported a stole from Manipur.

Official sources said Modi uses the brahmakamal whenever he offers prayers at the Kedarnath shrine in Uttarakhand.

Turbans have previously been a highlight of the prime minister's sartorial choices at Independence Day and Republic Day events.

There was no chief guest at the parade this year. However, Swachhagrah, frontline workers, auto rickshaw drivers, construction workers and labourers who prepared the majestic tableaus were among special guests invited this year to the Republic Day parade.

The parade started at 10:30 am this year, half-an-hour later than usual for better visibility.

Commanded by Lt Gen Vijay Kumar Mishra

maintained the mandated distance while sit-

ting, and standing spectators were not allowed. Only double vaccinated adults and children above the age of 15 who have taken at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine were allowed to enter the venue. Children below 15 years were not permitted to attend.

There was tight security with personnel maintaining strict vigil. Chairs were placed at a distance to ensure social distancing. Participants also received a white cap with "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" printed on it.

Delhi was brought under a heavy security cover as the city police had intensified patrolling and sealed the borders of the national capital in coordination with its counterparts from the neighbouring states to thwart any untoward incident amid a terror alert by intelligence agencies.

Over 27,000 police personnel were deployed on Republic Day security duties in Delhi and anti-terror measures intensified.

were also mentioned on the CID list.

"No cash assistance was paid to 20 migrant families after their registration as migrants, although free ration to these families was allowed." reads the CAG report.

As per CAG, the disbursement of cash relief has already been made as of December 2020, through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode 🕂 on the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) portal since November 2017.

Audit has also noticed that the bank account of Tehsildar, Reasi had an undisbursed balance of Rs 50.18 lakh as of 29 August 2019. "Further, the Tehsildar, Reasi had remitted Rs 17 lakh into Government account as of 31 March 2020."

It is pertinent to mention here, in 2015 J&K Government under PMDP had accorded sanction for payment of cash assistance to registered Jammu migrants at a rate of Rs 2,500 per person per month subject to a maximum of Rs 10,000 per family per month with effect from 18 November 2015, as well as ration at the exsting scal

inoperative.

Defense, External Affairs,

The Lt Governor reiterated the administration's commitment to promoting local businesses in the real estate sector.

He observed that the central government under the strong and able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the bold and decisive step of breaking the shackles erected in the path of development of Jammu and Kashmir.

"After the historic transformative changes in August 2019, Jammu and Kashmir is poised to become the latest success story among Indian states and a model of Socio-Economic development for the country."

The Lt Governor highlighted the co-existence of various religions enriching and diversifying Jammu and Kashmir's cultural heritage and making the UT an example of immortal organic composite Indian culture.

R-Day Passes

Omar Abdullah questioned why the flag did not remain there for even a day. He also alleged that the unfurling was just for a 'photo op'.

Taking to the microblogging site, Twitter, Omar Abdullah said, "Tricolour disappears in less than a couple of hours. It didn't even remain there for the day. Why insult the National Flag of India just for a photo op? Is this what patriotism & nationalism has come to? Photo ops & trolling?"

Pertinently, the Republic Day functions were organised in all the districts across Jammu and Kashmir. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha presided over the main function in Jammu.

The Republic Day parade consisted of smart contingents from Army, BSF, CRPF, SSB, IRP (Women & Male), J&K Police, JKAP, UT Disaster Response Force, J&K Fire, and Emergency Services, J&K Forest Protection Force, Excise Department, Ex-Servicemen, NCC Boys and Girls. Bharat Scouts and Guides (Girls & Boys), besides several school contingents. Brass & Pipe Bands of Army, BSF, J&K Police, J&K Armed Police.

Moreover, District Development Council (DDC) chairpersons presided over the main functions in their respective districts while as the Block Development Council chairpersons and presidents of Municipal bodies took salute in separate functions held at the concerned Sub-Divisional and Municipal headquarters. Police said that all the R-Day functions passed off peacefully in Kashmir and there was no untoward incident anywhere.

Sun Shines

is currently under the grip of the 40day harshest winter period known as jured in the exchange of fire, two among them critically. The soldiers identified as Somveer Kumar, Lance Naik Mayank Singh and Lance Naik Sunil Kumar have been removed to army's 92 base hospital here for advanced treatment.

"#Encounter has started at Check Nowgam area of #Shopian. Police and security forces are on the job. Further details shall follow," Kashmir Police posted on its official Twitter handle earlier.

Meanwhile, reports said that the government forces have installed high-beam lights in the village and have tightened the cordon further to thwart any attempt of militants to escape under the cover of darkness.

Shah Hails

"I&K Police has been the spearhead of India's fight against terrorism. It is a matter of immense pride to the entire nation, that the @ JmuKmrPolice has won the largest share, 115, of the gallantry awards today on Republic Day. This reflects their valour and commitment." Shah tweeted.

Congratulating the Jammu and Kashmir Police, he said on this momentous achievement, he salutes their bravery.

"PM Shri @narendramodi Ji led central government stands committed to recognising and honouring our brave police personnel," he said. (PTI)

Kashmir's Karate

received Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Award in "Sport and Peace" category for his contribution in "Peace-Building Activities" through sports in Kashmir while his academy's students have so far won awards in many international events.

He is responsible for training 8-year-old world kickboxing champion Tajamul Islam, as well as 7-year-old Asian Karate gold medallist Hashim Mansoor.

Taking to micro-blogging site Twitter, the Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha congratulated the awardees.

"Heartiest congratulations to Padma Awardees Ghulam Nabi Azad (Padma Bhushan), Vishwamurti Shastri (Padma Shri) and Faisal Ali Dar (Padma Shri), for their valuable contributions in the field of Public Affairs, Literature & Education and Sports (sic)," he said-(With agency inputs)

India Displays

War Memorial, a monument to the soldiers who have made supreme sacrifice for the country.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the

with Maj Gen Alok Kacker as the second-incommand, the parade began with President Ram Nath Kovind taking the salute. The national flag was unfurled followed by the national anthem, synchronised with a 21-gun salute.

Horse-mounted soldiers of the Indian Army's 61 Cavalry Regiment, the only active horsed cavalry unit in the world currently, was the first marching contingent at the parade. This regiment's contingent was led by Major Mrityunjay Singh Chouhan.

The parade saw the launch of 'Shaheedon Ko Shat Shat Naman' programme by the National Cadet Corps and a display of ten scrolls each of 75 metres prepared during the 'Kala Kumbh' event besides installation of 10 large LED screens for a better viewing experience of spectators.

The contingents of security forces were followed by tableaux from states that showcased India's cultural diversity, with themes ranging from the freedom struggle to biodiversity.

Several government ministries and departments also took out tableaux, highlighting flagship initiatives such as the Jal Jeevan Mission. The Central Public Works Development tableau paid tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary.

The Lok Adalat tableau made its debut on Rajpath this year. The theme of the float by National Legal Services Authority was "Ek Mutthi Aasman (Inclusive Legal System): Lok Adalat". The front part of the tableau showcased 'Nyay Sabke Liye', a hand gesture of fearlessness, guarantee and protection.

Martyrs and independence movement was the theme of poll-bound Punjab's tableau while the Department of Post's tableau displayed the robust outreach and the modern face of India Post as well as all-women post offices to showcase the steps taken towards gender equality.

Dancers from the Kunbi community, the original inhabitants of Goa, and glimpses from the liberation struggle were the highlight of the tableau of the coastal state while Karnataka's skillfully made pots, carefully sculpted sandalwood miniatures and rich tradition of handicraft were on display in the state's tableau.

Known otherwise to witness huge bustling crowds across many age groups, the annual ceremonial event at Rajpath was scaled down this time in view of the coronavirus pandemic, with spectators' size drastically cut to 5000 from the 25,000 last year.

In the pre-pandemic times, over one lakh spectators used to witness the parade.

From members of contingents to spectators, everyone wore masks. The audience

'Mischievous Propaganda

is as it was earlier," Azad said on Twitter.

Azad's Twitter profile has nothing written on it and there is no reference to the Congress party

In the age of social media, the Twitter profiles of leaders are keenly watched as many tend to change them before formally switching parties

Azad, the former Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, is a prominent member of the G23 dissident leaders who have been demanding an organisational overhaul in the Congress and has faced backlash from a section of the party.

After the announcement of the Padma awards on Tuesday evening, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, while commenting on CPI (M) leader Buddhadeb Bhattacharva's refusal to accept the award, said, "He wants to be Azad not Ghulam".

However, senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal, who is also in the G23, said on Wednesday that it was ironic that the Congress does not need Azad's services when the nation recognises his contributions to public life.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had showered praise on Azad during his farewell speech for the Congress leader in the Upper House and the latter had returned the sentiment.

Azad has recently travelled extensively in villages of Jammu and Kashmir and has received an encouraging response. He is again planning to visit Jammu and Kashmir in the coming days, sources said.

J&K Logs 5606

Samba 84 each, Rajouri 78, Poonch 49, Kathua 38, Reasi 22 and Kishtwar 10.

"Moreover, 5005 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 1592 from Jammu Division and 3413 from Kashmir Division," the officials said.

Also, they said that eight more people, four each in Jammu and Kashmir died of Coronavirus related complications, taking the death toll in the pandemic to 4,635 in J&K–2264 in Jammu division and 2371 in Kashmir Valley.

The officials also said that no new cases of Mucormycosis were reported today, thus the total number of confirmed cases remains51 across J&K. **CAG Report Calls**

period prior to their registration as migrants. "Besides, excess payment of arrears of Rs 28.99 lakh to 159 migrant families on account of interest on cost of ration was also observed." CAG said. Pertinently, CAG has also revealed that there was a denial of cash assistance to migrant families who were already declared eligible and

Subsequently, the rates of cash relief were enhanced with effect from 13 June 2018 to the rate of Rs 3,250 per head per month subject to a ceiling of Rs 13,000 per family per month.

Former PDP MLA

prolonged illness at home in Zawoora Shopian," PDP leader Yawar Banday said.

Wagay was elected to the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly in 2008 on a PDP ticket. He did not choose to contest the 2014 assembly elections due to ill-health.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti condoled the demise of the veteran leader, who was a long time associate of party founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

"Deeply saddened to hear about the passing away of Abdul Razak Zawoora sahab. A true loyalist to PDP's agenda who stood by Mufti sahab through thick and thin. May his soul rest in peace," Mehbooba tweeted. (PTI)

Driver Killed

deep gorge near Shabanbass area of Banhihal purportedly after the driver lost control over the vehicle due to over speeding.

In the incident, two Bandipora residents driver identified as Nazir Ahmed Sheikh (58) son of Abdul Gani Sheikh and Naveed Nazir son of Nazir Ahmed suffered injuries.

The duo was soon after evacuated in a joint rescue operation by NGO 'Banihal Volunteers' and police to SDH Banihal, however the driver succumbed on the way even as the injured person was undergoing treatment at the health facility. (GNS)

Elderly Man

that the fire seems to be mysterious and further investigations are underway. Two rooms of the house including a mattress and other belongings were gutted in the fire incident.

"Further investigations are going on," he said. The elderly man was all alone at the time of the incident, he added. (GNS)

Ladakh Logs

district, they said.

With lone death being reported from Kargil, the total death count has reached 223, that include 164 fatalities in Leh and 59 in Kargil.

Of 218 new positive cases, 97 were reported in Leh and 121 from Kargil, they said.

As many as 144 patients were cured and discharged from hospitals in Ladakh on Tuesday. Of these, 118 were discharged in Leh and 26 in Kargil, they said.

With these, the total number of cured patients is 23,496, they said. (PTI)

STATE



Unveils 'Charkha' At Srinagar International Airport

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that the Union Territory was making great strides in fulfilling the Prime Minister's vision of AtmaNirbhar Bharat and keeping with this spirit, continuous efforts are being made for the revival and conservation of Khadi, Rural Arts & Crafts, besides expanding their reach to the international market.

Sinha made these remarks while virtually unveiling a Charkha (Spinning Wheel) at the Srinagar International Airport, an official spokesperson said. The Charkha measuring 8.6 ft by 4.3 ft and weighing 71 kg has been installed by the Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB).

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor said that Charkha symbolizes Mahatma Gandhi's idea of Self-Reliance and its installation at Srinagar Airport on Republic Day is a befitting tribute to Bapu and to all the great freedom fighters of India.

"Charkha was made a symbol of economic self-reliance by Bapu in 1918 and became an important part of Swadeshi and Indian Independence movement like Non-violence, Satyagraha and Civil Disobedience", he added.

Terming the occasion as historic, the Lt Governor said that eration Program, besides 4,904 the Charkha at Srinagar airport will inspire us to encourage greater public participation in the development framework of the UT and to meet the needs of the people by optimally utilizing our social capital and other resources.

"Today, when our country Mohatsav and moving steadily

will serve as a symbol of Atma Nirbhar Bharat campaign of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and will inspire the citizens of the UT and all countrymen to work towards building a self-reliant J&K, and a selfreliant India", the Lt Governor remarked.

The Lt Governor observed that J&K is making great strides in fulfilling the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of AtmaNirbhar Bharat and keeping with this spirit, continuous efforts are being made for the revival and conservation of Khadi, Rural Arts & Crafts, besides expanding their reach to the international

market. Prime Minister's slogan 'Khadi for Nation, Khadi for Fashion'- has gained greater popularity and now international designers are using Khadi in New York and London fashion shows, he further added.

The Lt Governor also called for collaborative efforts to preserve the identity of the worldfamous handicrafts, art and culture of Jammu and Kashmir, on the occasion.

Highlighting the initiatives taken by J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) to create livelihood generation opportunities for the people of the UT, the Lt Governor said that in the last three years, 11,978 units have been established under the

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program and 1,803 units have been established under the Rural Employment Genunits have also been established for the deprived sections and women.

"Under all these schemes, about 1,50,000 people have been provided with viable employment opportunities", he noted. The Lt Governor congratu-

lated Dr Hina Bhatt, Vice-Chairis celebrating Azadi ka Amrit person, Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board, towards the fourth industrial and the members and officials revolution, I believe Charkha of KVIB on this historic occasion.



SECURITY PERSONNEL maintained tight vigil on Wednesday in Srinagar to ensure peaceful conduct of R-day. Pic: Abid Bhat/KO

Advisor Bhatnagar Unfurls Tricolor At SKCC Srinagar

'These Are Historic Times For J&K As It Is Seeing A New Dawn'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Wednesday unfurled tricolor on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day at the Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium here.

After unfurling the flag, the Advisor inspected the parade and took the salute from the contingents of JKP, BSF, CRPF, JKAP, SSB, ITBP, IRP, Women contingent, Forest Protection Force and NCC.

In his address, Advisor Bhatnagar extended the warm greetings of 73rd Republic Day to the people of Jammu & Kashmir and remarked that we are able to live in this unique country as a democratic nation only because seven decades ago on this day, our Constitution came into effect and we embarked on our journey as a Republic Nation. Highlighting about the signifi-

cance of constitution in his address, the Advisor said that the doctrine of our constitution has laid the foundation of modern India we are currently living in. "Our founding fathers and visionary leaders brought together a diversity of views on a single platform to forge a common national spirit by drafting and enacting this unique constitution which has been imbibed from generation to generation", Advisor Bhatnagar said.

He added that this day marks the entity of our country as a



ery tradition of varied cultures. And of J&K has fared exceptionally well this peaceful co-existence here has reflected in the lives of the inhabitants of this beautiful land.

While applauding the exemplary services of doctors, paramedics, frontline workers during the ongoing pandemic, Advisor Bhatnagar said that the whole world is confronting a deadly virus which has disrupted all activities and taken a huge toll on the lives of people.

'We must be indebted to our doctors, nurses and other health workers who have been continuously on the forefront of our fight against this virus. Unfortunately, many of our own health workers have lost their lives battling this pandemic. They are our national heroes. All Corona Warriors deserve high praise and appreciation. They go much beyond their call of duty to save lives and ensure essential services", the Advisor said. The As of now, 60 lakh Golden cards celebration of the empowerment Advisors added that doctors, health have been generated and 16.36 of Indian citizens to select their workers, members of Disaster Man- lakhs (80%) families have been regown government which shaped agement Teams, police personnel, istered under PM-JAY and AB-PMsanitation workers service provid-Asserting that the medical iners, government employees, social

in the Covid Management as No bed or Oxygen shortage was faced during the two waves of Covid 19 Pandemic. 100% administration of 1st dose of covid vaccine to the eligible population above 18 years has been achieved and the vaccination of the age group 15-18 is going on", the Advisor said.

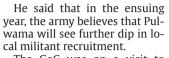
The Advisor added that third wave of Covid is under control here and we need to be careful and follow COVID SOPs religiously. He also said that the PM-JAY SEHAT insurance scheme has been very successful across J&K which provides health insurance cover upto Rs 5.00 lakh per family on floater basis. "218 hospitals are empanelled in the UT of J&K under this scheme and the benefits of the scheme are also portable across the country through a network of about 24000 hospitals. **IAY-SEHAT Schen**

Militancy Incidents Down, Recruitment **Up In Pulwama: Army**

Kashmir Observer[™] 07 Thursday | 27.01.2022

Agencies

SRINAGAR: General officer Commanding (GoC) of Srinagar-based army's 15 Corps Lieutenant General D P Pandey Wednesday said that southern district of Pulwama has indeed shown a decline in militancy related incidents but the district continues to see local militant recruitment on the rise.



The GoC was on a visit to southern districts of Shopian and Pulwama on the eve of 73rd Republic Day. He met senior citizens and traders in these twin districts of South Kashmir.

at Shopian, the GoC said that go down in the ongoing year," he of militancy was wrong. said.

make their future.

and stability," he said, adding and development in southern that the people of South Kashmir districts of Kashmir-(KNO)

like those of north Kashmir have realized the effects of militancy. The GoC said that wrong narrative is being taught to children

and wherever it happens, youth are bound to choose wrong path "as it is easy way out and just a glamour."

'Youth are picking guns be-Talking to media persons cause of unemployment but wrong path is being shown to people of Kashmir want peace them," Pandey said. He said that and not militancy. "Militancy the situation was getting better related incidents are declining as people, especially youth have and we believe they will further understood that taking the path

He said that militancy re-The army officer said that if lated incidents have declined the number of militants and in Pulwama but "local militant militancy related incidents de- recruitment continues to be on cline, it will provide more op- the rise." "We believe this (local portunities to local youth to militant recruitment) will also go down in the ongoing area," "Time has come when people the GoC said and sought peohave to choose the path of peace ple's cooperating in bring peace

Army Unfurls Tallest Tricolor In Shopian

Press Trust Of India

Wednesday dedicated to people a 150-feet-high flagpole in Kashmir to mark the Republic Day celebrations, a defence

spokesman said. He said it will be the tallest flagpole in the union territory. On the occasion of the 73rd Republic Day, the Chinar Corps

in collaboration with Punit Balan Group installed a 150-feethigh mast National Flag in the historic town of Shopian," the spokesman said.

flagpole ushered in a new milestone in the history of south Kashmir. The second tallest flagpole is

also located in Shopian district, of the civil administration, citithe spokesman added. The foundation

zens of Shopian and the security forces for striving for peace

colorful event and the flagpole

was dedicated to the people of SRINAGAR: The Army on Shopian by Lt Gen D P Pandey, GOC Chinar Corps," he said. The inauguration ceremony

Shopian district of Jammu and commenced with the unfurling of the national flag by the GOC Chinar Corps and the singing of the national anthem by the students of Army Goodwill School, Balapur. A drill by cadets of 1st J-K NCC Battalion, Srinagar showcased the pride of the local youth associated with the tricolour, the spokesman said.

Lt Gen Pandey said, "The national flag is the greatest symbol of our national conscience He said installing the highest as it represents the supreme collective expression of our commitment and loyalty to our motherland.

He congratulated the efforts

Of Kashmiri Pandit Man In Ganderbal

Muslims Help In Funeral

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid the Covid-19 third wave, Muslims performed last rites of a Kashmiri Pandit who passed away in Watalbagh Ganderbal locality of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Wednesday.

A Kashmiri pandit Mohan Krishna Matoo,72, breathed his last at SKIMS Soura in the wee hours plunging the whole locality in mourning, eyewitnesses said.

Soon after the news of Matoo's death spread, local Muslims made special arrangements the two communities have been in performing his last rites. They living in the locality in bonhoalso ferried firewood to help the mie-(KNO)

family to cremate the deceased. "It is our duty to help neighbours irrespective of their religion," Shahbaz, a local resident, said "He passed away in the morning. Keeping social distancing norms in mind, the local Mus-

lims visited the bereaved family one by one and expressed their condolences," Aijaz said.

In Ganderbal locality around a dozen Pandit families are residing who did not migrate from Kashmir valley during the peak

of militancy in 1990's, instead decided to stay put. Since then

Two-Way Traffic Resumes On Banihal Highway

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir valley with the outside world, shall remain open for two-way traffic on Thursday, first time in more than a fortnight, officials said.

"On 27-01-2022, subject to fair weather and better road conditions LMVs(passenger)/private cars shall be allowed from both sides on Jammu-Srinagar highway viz Jammu towards Srinagar and vice- versa," a traffic department official said in a statement to GNS. He said Traffic Control Unit Jammu/Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic, he said.

He said cut off for LMVs/priwill be at 0800 hours to 1200 hours, from Jakheni (Udhampur) at 0900 hours to 1300 hours and "(subject to change depending official said. (GNS)

on the road position then)" He said no vehicle shall be allowed before and after cut off timings.

Regarding HMVs/Load carriers, he said, "subject to fair weather and better road conditions, they shall be allowed from NAVYUG Tunnel (Qazigund side) towards Jammu after assessing the traffic situation on highwaya." He said TCU Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the highway.

Meanwhile, Mughal Road, Shopian connecting with Poonch and Rajouri districts, remained closed for vehicular movement in view of snow accumulation at Peer Ki Gali.

Also, Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road remained shut for vehicular vate cars from Nagrota (Jammu) movement in view of snow accumulation on Zoji la axis and has been closed till further orders. Kishtwar-Sinthan road also refrom Navyug Tunnel (Qazigund mained closed in view of snow acside) 0900 hours to 1300 hours cumulation, the traffic department modern nation.

The Advisor remarked that these are historic times for Jammu and Kashmir as it is seeing a new dawn. dawn which will bring prosperity, a dawn which will lead to progress and development, a dawn which will usher J&K towards peace and the best way to overcome misgivings is to reaffirm our commitment to abide by the values of our Republic. He added that Jammu and Kashmir has always been an inteof India in each and every respect embracing every religion and ev-

service organizations and generous citizens have been scripting inspiring stories of courage and selfless A dawn which promises hope, a service during this pandemic who risk their own lives to save our life and livelihood.

Highlighting about the achievements of present administration, Advisor Bhatnagar said that after the unprecedented challenge of CO-VID-19 pandemic, the government has amplified the medical infrastructure across Jammu and Kashpeople and also to provide them

best possible medical care. "Our UT possible medical care to people.

frastructure across Jammu and Kashmir is being amplified, Advisor Bhatnagar said that more than 400 Health Infrastructure Projects/ works worth Rs. 7177 Crores are being initiated here. Work on two new AIIMS with the project Cost of Rs 4000 Cr (Rs. 2000 Cr each) one each at Jammu Division & Kashmir Division is also going on smoothly, seven new Government Medical Colleges, Ten new Nursing Colleges and two Cancer Institutes, one each gral part of the ethos and culture mir to safeguard the lives of our at Jammu and Kashmir Division are established here to provide best

Denied Permission For Attending R-Day Function, Allege LAHDC Leh Councillors

Inquiry Initiated, Two Cops Attached To DPL Leh, Act Evokes Massive Resentment

They demanded an answer

Agencies LEH: Expressing serious resentment and anger, the Councilfrom the Lieutenant governor lors of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh Wednesday alleged that anything such happened to they were denied permission them.

for attending the Republic Day function held at Polo Ground, Leh for no reasons. However, the chairman of the Council said that the matter is being investigated and officials are verifying the circumstances.

The main function of Republic Day in Leh as per officials was held at Polo Ground. Talking to reporters, the

Councillors while identifying ernor as well," CEC said. themselves as part of the ruling BIP, Opposition, and Independent, said that they were not allowed to enter the Republic Day main function at Leh and it has cillors to talk to them. angered them since they were

not given respect. They said that the council will celebrate the forthcoming 15th August separately since the Indian flag deserves a huge amount of respect.

"This move is aimed to daminto the matter.

age the Council. We strongly Meanwhile, Morup Dorjay condemn this act," the angry one of the Councillor, part of Councillors said.

the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), who was denied permission said that the highof Ladakh saying that as to why est institution in the region is the Hill Council. "We had received the invitation cards for

Meanwhile, reacting to the the function. We had come toallegations, the Chief Executive gether in an official vehicle. All Councillor (CEC) Leh Advocate of us were denied permission Tashi Gyalson while terming it for around 15 minutes, we were made to stand there," he said. unfortunate said that the matter

has come to their knowledge as Later, he said police and other officials approached them and well. "The matter will be investigated and the reason that led asked them to enter the venue to this incident will face strict but "all of us anonymously reaction and the same has been jected their request since all of assured by the lieutenant govus are public representatives."

"It's a bureaucratic rule and He said they have talked to seems like a colonial era." he Lieutenant Governor, ADGP, alleged. He informed a highand Advisor besides the SSP has level inquiry has been initiated gone to the residence of Counin this regard by the lieutenant governor's office to ascertain To a query, the CEC said that the circumstances.

it is important to hear both par-According to an order issued ties including the Councillors by ADGP Ladakh Police, two and another end as well and policemen including Teswang terming it a deliberate move. Paljor (SI) and Abdul Gani (CT) have been attached to DPL Leh He further said that they have asked for a proper investigation with immediate effect against pending inquiry. -(KNO)

laid on 18 October 2021 at Army progress in south Kashmir, the Goodwill School, Balapur in a spokesman said.

Unknown Man Killed, SPO Wounded In Train Accident

Agencies

wounded in a train accident at wounded. Kakapora area of Pulwama district on Wednesday.

speedy train who died on the bad–(KNO)

spot at Kakapora on Wednesday. An SPO identified as SRINAGAR: An unidentified Shabir Ahmed, while trying person was killed and a special to save the unidentified man, police officer (SPO) critically was also hit and critically

"The injured SPO was critically wounded and is being treated An official said that an un- at SMHS hospital," a doctor said, identified man was hit by the adding that his condition is very

105 ASHA Functionaries Felicitated For Noteworthy Performance

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Health Mission, J&K awarded the 105 best functionaries of ASHA Programme in J&K on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day celebration.

ASHAs, ASHA Facilitators, Block ASHA Coordinators, District ASHA Coordinators, State Trainers and Block/ District Programme Management Units in recognition of their contribution to make ASHA programme successful in the Union Territory.

In each district, District Development Commissioner handed over the Appreciation Certificates and cash reward worth Rs. 5000 to each selected functionary.

Congratulating the winner, Yasin Choudhary, MD, NHM J&K said, "ASHA functionaries form a vital link between the Health Department and the people. This recognition is a token of appreciation for their valuable contribution in

at the grass root level. We select- functional in Jammu & Kashmir.

ed 2 ASHAs per District, 2 ASHA Facilitators per Division, 3 Block ASHA Coordinators per Division, 1 District ASHA Coordinator per Division and 1 State ASHA Trainer per Division based on their performance. In addition, 1 District The awards were presented to Programme Manager, 1 District Accounts Manager and 1 District Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, 2 Block Monitoring Evaluation Officers and 2 Block Accounts Managers per Division have also been selected for awards based on their performance. I congratulate all the winners for their achievement."

He further added, considering the role of ASHA functionaries in healthcare delivery at the ground level and specially during COVID-19 pandemic, Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education, J&K decided to start this award to recognize the best performers.

At present, about 13000 implementing all health schemes ASHAs and ASHA Cadres are

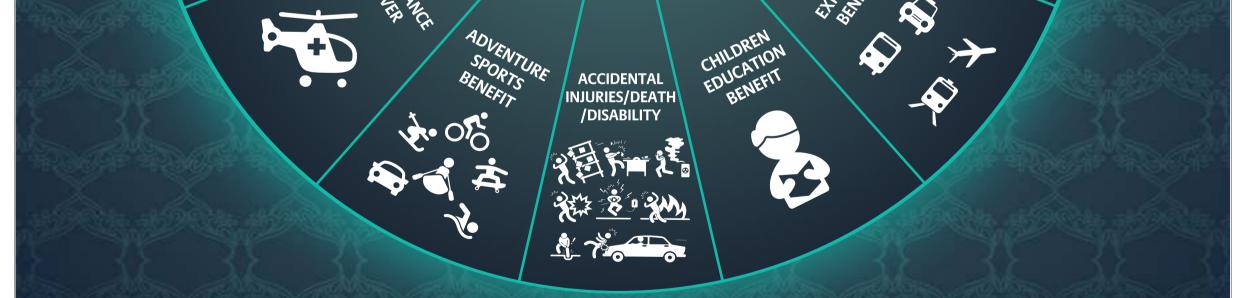






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